



# *U.S. Department of Energy*

## *National Energy Technology Laboratory*



September 18, 2001

Dear ICCS Registrant,

It is with deep regret that I must inform you of the cancellation of the 11th International Conference on Coal Science that has been scheduled to be convened Sept. 30 - Oct. 5 in San Francisco. We make this decision owing to the impacts of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11. On this day, terrorists hijacked four large commercial aircraft headed to the west coast of the U.S. that were fully loaded with fuel, and they used them as weapons of mass destruction against innocent people engaged in their daily lives. There is an abiding concern in America that further terrorist actions may be imminent.

These events have a deep personal meaning for me and my colleagues here at the NETL. In 1994, we lost nine of our friends and coworkers who were returning from a Clean Coal Conference in Chicago in the crash of U.S. Airways flight 427. We have had communications from some of you with concerns about your safety and concerns about the difficulty to travel. Members of our conference staff are also concerned about air travel and do not want to be away from their families at this time. After the first and only complete stand down of commercial airlines in our history, U.S. airports are slowly returning to their operations. Domestic airlines are back in operation, but schedules are being cut back. International travel has not been fully restored and it is uncertain when normalcy will return. Looking ahead, since we do not know what further actions may transpire in the next few weeks, we are reluctant to plan anything in the near term. In light of these unprecedented circumstances, we cannot guarantee your safety.

I can tell you that the planning committee has fully prepared for the meeting. The Final Agenda, Book of Abstracts, and Proceedings are in production. We will fully consider what options we may have for possibly rescheduling the meeting. When we have made a decision, we will provide complete detailed information to you.

We do understand that cancellation of the meeting may pose difficulties for some of you, and we sincerely regret any personal inconvenience you may suffer; nevertheless, we feel this decision is necessary at this time. We beg for your understanding and patience as we pass through this crisis. **Please, take individual actions now to cancel any hotel reservations or flight reservations you have made in order to attend the 11th ICCS.**

Sincerely yours,

Mildred B. Perry, Chairman ICCS